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WEDNESDAY
FEBRUARY 24, 1954

Sunny, but cold enough for an overcoat.

David's birthday, and he in Switzerland probably unconscious of it.

Went to the American Embassy this morning and read a long cable from Tommy to the effect that Bidault wished to press on at full steam for a vote on EDC. The opposition will quickly show its hand.

After my return to Ashley's, Tommy telephoned to say a telegram had arrived from Foster about EDC and he thought I should come back to Paris earlier than anticipated. Therefore, I shall try to arrange my departure for tomorrow afternoon.

Saragat, an attractive man, leader of the Socialist Party branch called by his name, Treves, son of the famous old Socialist, and La Malfa, whom I had previously met in Rome, Washington and Mexico City, came to lunch with Ashley, Mr. Hannaford, (a member of his staff) and myself. The Italians talked frankly about their political difficulties, which are many. They were in accord that Nenni is indistinguishable from a Communist. Saragat, who is Vice-Premier, said he would not serve in any government with the Monarchists. All of them were [redacted] agreeable. Treves spoke English, the others French.

After their departure Ashley presented figures to indicate the improbability at this time of broadening the Governmental base by admitting Monarchists to the Cabinet. According to his reckoning, the additional 40 Monarchist votes in Parliament would be more than counterbalanced by defections from other parties.

Tonight we went to a dinner given by the Magistratis at the Cercolo della Caccia, in the Palazzo Borghese. After a [redacted] pleasant meal, I talked for an hour or more with Pella. He thinks Scelba will win by a narrow majority and he hopes will stay in power long enough to pass the EDC and settle the Trieste affair. Pella is against new elections, said to be favored by de Gasperi. He thinks there

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is a bare possibility of EDC ratification before the summer recess. Like Clare Luce, he would like, later on, representation by the Monarchists in the Government.

A Monarchist, formerly Italian Ambassador in Paris, introduced himself as we were leaving and told me his party would vote for the EDC as a national issue, removed from domestic party politics.

Met also at dinner the banker Scaretti, once famous for his reputed amours with Lady Sybil Graham and others when I was in Rome in the twenties. He is old but still good-looking, and married to Gladwyn Jebb's sister.

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